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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
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COMMITTEE ON
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Dear Louisiana Delegation Colleagues:

Tomorrow, the House of Representatives is slated to consider the conference report on H.R. 2346, *the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2009*. The bill provides additional equipment for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, including \$1.9 billion for more Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, and provides \$2.5 billion to ensure adequate pay for our troops for the rest of the fiscal year.

I thought you may be interested to know that H.R. 2346 also includes significant adjustments to the federal cost share for Hurricane Ike. The legislation increases the federal cost share to 100-percent for Section 403 (essential assistance) and Section 407 (debris removal) activities. It also increases the federal cost share to 90-percent for Section 406 activities (the repair, restoration, and replacement of damaged facilities). Today, the State pays for 25-percent of the cost of these activities.

Although I would have liked adjustments for both Hurricanes Ike *and* Gustav included in this legislation, these changes will benefit 27 parishes across the State. (Acadia, Allen, Beauregard, Bienville, Calcasieu, Cameron, Concordia, DeSoto, Iberia, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Livingston, Natchitoches, Plaquemines, Red River, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Union, Vermillion, Vernon) The Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness estimates that these changes will save the State \$25 million, which helps all parishes still rebuilding from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Gustav.

As you consider your vote on H.R. 2346, I ask that you most remember how important this measure is to our troops and to the rebuilding of our State after Hurricane Ike. I also urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress